

Short Notices

Archæology and Anthropology

The Dawn of the Human Mind :

a Study of Palæolithic Man. By R. R. Schmidt. Translated by Prof. R. A. S. Macalister. Pp. xxix + 256 + 50 plates. (London : Sidgwick and Jackson, Ltd., 1936.) 12s. 6d. net.

DR. SCHMIDT in this elaborate and detailed study of the growth of mentality in primitive man, and more especially of *Homo sapiens* as he first appears as Cro-Magnon man, argues from both structure and the products of man's mind preserved in the archæological record. On one side, function is inferred from the development in organic evolution attained, more especially in growth and character of the brain, by the various early types of man from *Pithecanthropus* to *Homo sapiens*; and on the other, the basis of inference is the product, the artefact, interpreted as an indication of the mentality required to produce it, as well as of the cultural associations—social organizations, cults and the like—implied in its production. The analogy of peoples of backward culture of the present day support the argument with certain reservations.

Both lines of argument are familiar, though Dr. Schmidt is both bolder and more thoroughly logical than most in their application. The pioneer quality of his work, however, lies more particularly in the introduction of a third element into his analysis. This is interpretation through evidence afforded by a recapitulation in the child of the mental evolution of the race, analogous to the prenatal embryonic recapitulation of the phases of organic evolution. The argument is precarious, and in fact it is possible that no two observers would agree in drawing the line between this 'race-memory' and environmental influence. Nevertheless, by the aid of his theory Dr. Schmidt has produced an excellent and stimulating analysis of the culture of palæolithic man. Within its compass, his account of palæolithic art and his interpretation of it are as good as anything at present available. Prof. Macalister's translation of a difficult text is excellent.

Stone Age Africa :

An Outline of Prehistory in Africa. By L. S. B. Leakey. Pp. xii + 218 + 14 plates. (London : Oxford University Press, 1936.) 7s. 6d. net.

DR. LEAKEY'S Munro Lectures for 1935-36, here expanded into book-form, present in summary a review of the evidence for the Stone Age in Africa. After a brief survey of the climatic and geographical conditions and the regional distribution of the distinctive fauna, recent and modern, the author gives an account of the cultural successions in East, South, North and West Africa, pointing out in dealing with the last-named that evidence at present is almost non-existent.

Recent progress in the study of African archæology has been rapid, and a correlation of this kind was badly needed. The task, however, is one for which an intimate knowledge of widely differing conditions is a necessity. In this respect there are few who are better qualified than Dr. Leakey. Nor is he afraid to assert an independent judgment, as will be noted in his critical attitude towards the work of his fellow archæologists in South Africa. In criticizing their system of nomenclature he raises a difficult question, on which for the moment it is perhaps best to reserve judgment. The extension of stone-age archæological studies to a world-wide field demands an open mind in approach to this question, until chronological and typological correlations have been more fully worked out.

Dr. Leakey does full justice to the valuable work of M. Vaufrey and other French archæologists in North Africa; but it is in East Africa, where he is on his own ground, that he is at his best. While accepting for the moment the criticisms which have been levelled at his chronological evidence, he argues inferentially for the early appearance of *Homo sapiens* in East Africa.

Misprints and slips in names and dates are regrettably frequent.

Naven :

a Survey of the Problems suggested by a Composite Picture of the Culture of a New Guinea Tribe drawn from Three Points of View. By Gregory Bateson. Pp. xviii + 286 + 28 plates. (Cambridge : At the University Press, 1936.) 18s. net.

'NAVEN' is a ceremonial of the Iatmul, a head-hunting tribe of the Sepik River, New Guinea. Its performance on occasions of importance in the life of an individual, more especially when something is done for the first time, as, for example, when a head is taken, has afforded Mr. Bateson the material for an elaborate study of the culture of the Iatmul people, in which different aspects of the one ceremony are made the basis of a detailed analysis of structure, emotional attitude and social relation.

Anthropologists who are interested in the origins of custom and religious ideas will find here much on which to exercise their theoretical faculty. This, however, is a branch of inquiry which Mr. Bateson deliberately eschews. His treatment is synchronous, and his theoretical interest is directed to the development of method in sociology and cultural anthropology on lines suggested by his investigation of 'naven'. The method here elaborated differs from the functional method of Prof. B. Malinowski, in so far as this is based upon the satisfaction of human needs. This the author consistently emphasizes, admitting, however, at the same time, that it is a development arising out of the practice of the functional school. So far, however, from discrete or